

I invite you to join in the reading of Psalm 138 responsively...

¹I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; *

before the gods I sing your praise;

²I bow down toward your holy temple *

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,

for you have exalted above all things

your name and your word.

³On the day I called, you answered me; *

my strength of soul you increased.

⁴All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O Lord, *

for they have heard the words of your mouth,

⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord, *

for great is the glory of the Lord.

⁶For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, *

but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, *

you preserve my life;

you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, *

and your right hand delivers me.

⁸The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; *

your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen

The Old Testament Reading is recorded in Isaiah 51:1–6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the **Lord**:

look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the **Lord** comforts Zion;
he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the **Lord**;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to me, my people,
and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me,
and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near,
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples;
the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Epistle Reading is recorded in Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Holy Gospel: Matthew 16:13–20

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ